Claims

[c1]   1. A system, comprising:
a web server, producing a web page which is available on the Internet; and
an information translating part which receives e-mail messages and translates
said e-mail messages into a form which can interact with said web page being
produced by said web server.

[c2]   2. A system as in claim 1, wherein said e-mail messages include e-mail
messages in plain text form.

[c3]   3. A system as in claim 2, further comprising an e-mail pager, producing said
e-mail messages.

[c4]   4. A system as in claim 2, further comprising a cellular telephone, producing
said e-mail messages.

[c5]   5. A system as in claim 1, wherein said web server is a server that hosts
auctions of items for sale and maintains auction bids for items for sale over the
Internet.

[c6]   6. A system as in claim 5, wherein said information translating part accepts e-
mail messages which include instructions to change bids on items in auctions
for which a user has been previously outbid.

[c7]   7. A system as in claim 5, wherein said information translating part also sends
e-mail messages indicative of information about said auctions.

[c8]   8. A system as in claim 5, wherein said information translating part also sends
e-mail messages that include information about items in said auctions for sale
over the Internet, on which items a user has been outbid.

[c9]   9. A system as in claim 7, wherein said information translating part produces
and sends messages which include a session identification indicator that
identifies said auction information.

[c10]
10. A system as in claim 9, wherein said information translating part detects a
reply to one of said plain text messages which reply including said session

identification indicator, and takes action on a specified auction based on said session identification indicator.

[c11]   11. A system as in claim 1, wherein said information translating part also sends e-mail messages indicative of actions occurring on said web page.

[c12]   12. A system as in claim 11, wherein said e-mail messages include a session ID indicative of said actions.

[c13]   13. A system as in claim 12, wherein said session ID is included as part of a return address in the e-mail message.

[c14]   14. A system as in claim 13, wherein the session ID is used to interact with said actions on said Web page.

[c15]   15. A system as in claim 9, wherein said action includes placing a new bid.

[c16]   16. A system as in claim 9, wherein said information translating part detects a new bid amount as part of a sent message.

[c17]   17.A method, comprising:
producing a web page on a server that is connected to the Internet; and
receiving a first e-mail message on the server, which e-mail has instructions to interact with said web page.

[c18]   18. A method as in claim 17, further comprising sending a second e-mail that has instructions on a specific interaction with said web page.

[c19]   19. A method as in claim 17, wherein said first e-mail includes information that requests specified information from said web page, and further comprising sending a response including said specified information.

[c20]   20. A method as in claim 17, wherein said web page is a web page for a server that hosts Internet based auctions.

[c21]   21. A method as in claim 20, wherein said receiving comprises receiving an instruction to bid on an item on an Internet based auction.

[c22]   22. A method as in claim 21, wherein said item is an item on which a user has

been previously outbid.

[c23]   23. A method as in claim 17, wherein said web page is an e-commerce site.

[c24]   24. A method as in claim 18, wherein said web page is a web page for a server that hosts Internet based auctions.

[c25]   25. A method as in claim 24, wherein said e-mail message includes a session ID indicative of an individual auction on said web page.

[c26]   26. A method as in claim 19, wherein said e-mail message with information includes information about auctions on which a user has been previously outbid.

[c27]   27. A method as in claim 26, further comprising replying to said e-mail with instructions to increase a bid.

[c28]   28. A method as in claim 18, wherein said e-mail message includes session ID information that represents said individual auction on which said user has been previously outbid.

[c29]   29. A method as in claim 28, further comprising replying to said e-mail message with said session ID information, and modifying a bid on said web page responsive to said replying.

[c30]   30. A method as in claim 29, wherein said session ID is part of a return address for said e-mail.

[c31]   31. A method as in claim 29, wherein said replying includes specifying an amount of a bid to be placed.

[c32]   32. A method as in claim 17, wherein said e-mail message includes a session ID indicative of an individual item on said web page.

[c33]   33. A method as in claim 17, wherein said web page is a web page for a server that maintains banking information.

[c34]   34. A method as in claim 33, wherein said e-mail message includes instructions to request a bank balance.

[c35]   35. A method as in claim 17, wherein said web page is a web page for a server that maintains stock portfolio information.

[c36]   36. A method as in claim 35, wherein said e-mail message includes instructions to request information on stocks whose prices have changed by a specified amount.

[c37]   37. A method as in claim 17, wherein said web page is a web page for a server that maintains items for sale.

[c38]   38. A method, comprising:
hosting a web page on a server connected to the Internet which displays information; and
sending an e-mail message that has user specified information instructing interacting with said web page on the Internet.

[c39]   39. A method as in claim 38, wherein said sending comprises sending an e-mail with information that specifies changes on said Web page.

[c40]   40. A method as in claim 39, further comprising replying to said e-mail with instructions to carry out some action relative to content on said web page.

[c41]   41. A method as in claim 38, wherein said web page is one which maintains Internet based auctions, and said sending comprises sending an e-mail about said Internet based auctions.

[c42]   42. A method as in claim 41, wherein said sending comprises sending an e-mail about Internet based auctions on which the user has been previously outbid.

[c43]   43. A method as in claim 41, further comprising sending a message to said server instructing said server to increase a bid on one of said auctions.

[c44]   44. A method as in claim 38, wherein said e-mail message includes a session ID indicative of the information being sent.

[c45]   45. A method as in claim 44, further comprising replying to said e-mail including said session ID to produce an instruction regarding said information.

[c46]   46. A system, comprising:
a Web server, producing web pages indicative of information that is stored and which can change based on user interaction;
a communications server, operating to receive e-mails with instructions to change contents of said web server and to produce instructions to said web server indicative of the change of contents.

[c47]   47. A system as in claim 46, wherein said communications server also sends e-mails based on the content of said web server, said e-mails including session identification information.

[c48]   48. A system as in claim 47, wherein said session identification uniquely identifies a specific operation to be carried out on said web server, and wherein said e-mails include instructions to change contents include said session identification therein.

[c49]   49. A system as in claim 48, wherein said web server is a server for carrying out Internet based auctions, and said e-mails include e-mails with instructions to change amounts of bids on said auctions.

[c50]   50. A system as in claim 49, wherein said communications server sends an e-mail when a user is outbid in one of said Internet based auctions.

[c51]   51. A system as in claim 46, wherein said web server is a web server that maintains banking information, and said e-mail includes instructions to request a bank balance.

[c52]   52. A system as in claim 46, wherein said web server is a web server that maintains stock portfolio information, and said e-mail includes instructions to request information on stocks which have changed.

[c53]   53. A system as in claim 46, wherein said web server maintains items for sale, and said e-mail includes instructions to purchase one of said items for sale.

[c54]   54. A system, comprising:
a web server, producing web pages indicative of information, and displaying said web pages over the Internet;

a communications server, communicating with said web server, and sending e-mails indicative of said information based on specified criteria, said e-mails including a session identification information which represents uniquely a specific item on said web server, and receiving e-mails and determining said session identification information in said received e-mails and modifying said information on said web server based on said session identification information in the received e-mails.

[c55]   55. A system as in claim 54, wherein said web server maintains Internet auctions, and said sent e-mails represent individual Internet auctions, with said session identification information also representing an individual Internet auctions.

[c56]   56. A system as in claim 55, wherein said received e-mails include information for changing bids in said Internet auctions.

[c57]   57. A system as in claim 54, wherein said web server maintains banking information, and said session identification information represents individual accounts.

[c58]   58. A system as in claim 54, wherein said web server maintains banking information, and said session identification information represent individual transactions.

[c59]   59. A method, comprising:
maintaining a web site indicative of Internet auctions, in which internet auctions items for sale receive bids from users;
sending an e-mail to a specific user indicating that the specific user has been outbid on an item, said e-mail including identification information;
replying to said e-mail with a new bid amount and said identification information; and
using information in the reply to said e-mail to change a bid amount on said web site for said Internet auctions on said item.

[c60]   60. A method as in claim 59, wherein said identification information is included as part of a return address for an e-mail.

[c61]   61. A method as in claim 59, wherein said identification information is included as part of text of said e-mail.

[c62]   62. A method, comprising:
maintaining a web site of Internet auctions, which web site allows placing bids on individual items, said bids being placed via an HTML page;
sending an e-mail to user in non HTML format, indicating that the user has been outbid on one of said items being hosted on said web site;
receiving a reply to said e-mail, and checking said e-mail to determine said one of said items, and placing a new bid based on said e-mail.

[c63]   63. A method as in claim 62, wherein said reply includes an amount of a new bid to be placed.

[c64]   64. A method as in claim 62, wherein said e-mail which is sent includes identification information indicative of said one of said items, and said reply also includes said identification information, said checking comprising checking said identification information.